

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

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R 051517Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8745

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01830

DEFENSE FOR ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: SOME BACKGROUND TIDBITS TO THATCHER'S DEFENSE
SPEECH

REF: A) LONDON 0956; B) LONDON 1324; C) LONDON 822

1. ANALYST FROM CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER FEBRUARY 3 THAT DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO THATCHER SPEECH ON DEFENSE HAD OCCASIONED "TENSE" CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SHADOW SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN POLICY MAUDLING AND DRAFTER OF SPEECH ROBERT MOSS OF THE ECONOMIST. AFTER READING DRAFT, MAUDLING THREW SPEECH ON TABLE AND REFERRED TO IT AS "RUBBISH." THATCHER ATTEMPTED TO MEDIATE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MAUDLING AND MOSS BUT AS DELIVERED, SPEECH WAS QUITE CLOSE TO MOSS' DRAFT. SOURCE SAID THIS WAS FIRST OCCASION IN WHICH THATCHER TOOK PRONOUNCED VIEW IN OPPOSITION TO HER "CHIEF ADVISOR ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

2. SOURCE NOTED THAT CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP IS OBVIOUSLY GRATIFIED ABOUT STIR SPEECH CAUSED (REF B). HE EXPECTS THAT THIS WILL REINFORCE THATCHER'S INCLINATION
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TO FEEL THAT MAUDLING IS NOT GIVING GOOD ADVICE. SOURCE

JUDGES IT ONLY A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE MAUDLING IS RELIEVED OF HIS SHADOW RESPONSIBILITIES. HE THINKS IT IS POSSIBLE MRS. THATCHER HAS NOT GIVEN UP COMPLETELY ON ENTICING HEATH BACK ONTO TORY FRONT BENCH. IF SHE DOES NOT SUCCEED WITH HIM, SHE MAY RESORT TO ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS (PERHAPS PETER WALKER) AS A REPLACEMENT FOR MAUDLING.

SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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